

# Embracing Complexity:

## *How Indigenous-Led Continuing Education is Building Skills to Support Meaningful Community-based Partnerships*

Avery Letendre and Etanda Arden

# Contextual background

- the Faculty of Native Studies is the only autonomous unit of its kind in North America
- history of emerging from academic supporters, Indigenous activists, the University of Alberta Senate, and Indigenous student organizing
- Indigenous-led unit that has taught >645,000 students in continuing education topics

# Contextual background

## Purpose:

- equip conscious allies,
- assist professionals to better service clients and perform their jobs more effectively,
- lead to new solutions,
- contribute to Indigenous self-determination

# Contextual background

- online course development began in 2017
  - Indigenous Canada massive open online course
  - eight microcredential courses
- overview topics, countering stereotypes, tackling structural racism
- Indigenous peoples and technoscience

# NEW MOOC! Summer 2026



# COMING SOON

**FACULTY OF NATIVE STUDIES**



## Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Development

A new Massive Open Online Course teaching the skills necessary to respectfully collaborate with Indigenous communities, nations, and organizations.

Special thanks to the Canadian Mountain Network, now operating as Braiding Knowledges Canada, for co-funding this project.



[ualberta.ca/native-studies](http://ualberta.ca/native-studies)



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# Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Development

- Grounded in community-based approaches (community members, knowledge holders and Elders)
- Multi-disciplinary contributors
- Highlights Indigenous relationality as a core ethos
- Develops competencies in community-engaged research methodologies
- Designed for consultation and relationship building professionals



# Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Call to Action #92

We call upon the corporate sector in Canada to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a reconciliation framework and to apply its principles, norms, and standards to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources.

# Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Call to Action #92

This would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- i. Commit to meaningful consultation, building respectful relationships, and obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples before proceeding with economic development projects.

# MOOC Module Topics

- **Learning by and Through the Land** (kâsiskâciwan sipiy River Walk)
- Indigenous Relationality: **Principles of a Good Relationship**
- Indigenous Engagement “Spectrum”: The Ethics and Power of Research
- Research and **Partnership Development in an Unequal World** – Overcoming Barriers for Successful Collaboration
- **Indigenous Data Sovereignty**: Good Partnerships Produce Good Data
- In Good Relations: Respectful distinctions-based Indigenous re-search partnerships in health
- Indigenous Research Partnerships and **Empowering Communities**
- *How to Build Successful Partnerships: Where do I Start?*

# Promotional Trailer



[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yGxQCbh6GW\\_ZOjRO9VHP6HUQICRiBC83/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yGxQCbh6GW_ZOjRO9VHP6HUQICRiBC83/view?usp=drive_link)

# 2025 marked ten years since the TRC Calls to Action were released

*This anniversary year is a moment to recognize ... and to acknowledge what Indigenous Peoples—especially Survivors—have long understood: truth is not a symbolic gesture or a historical footnote.*

*Truth is action. Truth requires responsibility. Truth requires commitment. And anniversaries are a good time to renew those commitments ...*

*Our work is not finished, and the “our” in that statement includes all of us. Every single person in Canada — whether your family has lived here for a short time, many decades, several generations or since Time Immemorial.*

*(Dr. Crystal Gail Fraser, Gwichyà Gwich'in)*

# Sharing Together

How are universities enabling continuing education to advance truth and reconciliation?

# Sharing Together

What is needed for Canadian continuing education units to continue responding to the Calls to Action?

# Questions?



THANK YOU!

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nsonline@ualberta.ca



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